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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330



MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
October 3, 2001

MINUTES

Members Present: Leo Bouchard (Chair), Carol Pillsbury (Chair-elect), Jim McKenney, Robert Ashby, Oden Cassidy, Debbie Dane, Richard Doughty, William Dunwoody, Paul Knowlton, Penelope Stevens, Charles Little, Carol Pillsbury, Wayne Werts, Steve Leach, Peter DiPietrantonio

Regional Coordinators: Joanne LeBrun, Jim Caron, Rick Petrie

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dwight Corning, Dawn Kinney, Drexell White, Laura Yustak Smith, Esq. (AAG)

Guests: Valaree Foss, Ray Small, Roland Joyce, Gary French, Bill Montejo, Kevin Kendall, MD

1. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves and their affiliations. Dr. Kendall, who is an emergency physician at Central Maine Medical Center and the ACEP representative to the MDPB, is awaiting confirmation from the Governor's office as the Board representative from Tri County EMS.

2. Approval of September 5, 2001, meeting minutes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the September 5, 2001, meeting as distributed. (DePietrantonio; second by McKenney). Unanimous.

3. Old Business – none.

In consideration of the many guests who are present with regard to the agenda item regarding Canaan Rescue, the Board agreed to move that item to the next matter of business.

MOTION: To go into Executive Session to get advice from the Board's attorney and to request that MEMS staff (Bradshaw, Kinney, and White) and the KVEMS Regional Coordinator (Petrie) remain in the room. (Pillsbury; second by Leach) Unanimous.

Executive session began at 9:45 AM.

MOTION: To exit Executive Session. (Doughty; second by Pillsbury). Unanimous.

Executive session ended at 10:20 AM.

4. New Business

- a. Canaan Rescue

For many years, the Town of Canaan has received initial EMS coverage by a Non-Transporting Service. In recent months, many issues have arisen between the Town of Canaan and the Canaan Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association, Inc. There is also a second non-profit entity called the Canaan Volunteer Rescue Association, but it appears that this organization exists for fund raising purposes. Both the town and the Fire & Rescue Association ("Association") have submitted applications to continue providing EMS coverage and each submit that they are the true licensees of record; however, a review of the licensing information on file at MEMS is sufficiently unclear as to the organizational structure.

Speaking for the Town of Canaan was Fire Chief Ray Small. Representing the Association was Valaree Foss.

After formal presentations from both parties and questions from Board members, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To invite both the Town of Canaan and the Association to attend the next meeting of the Board along with their legal representatives. At that meeting, the Board will conduct a formal review of the applications. (Pillsbury; second by McKenney) Unanimous

Those present were asked to submit supporting material to MEMS in advance of the next meeting. MEMS will arrange to have a hearing officer present to conduct that portion of the meeting.

b. Investigations Task Force

Wayne reported that the Task Force will have the final draft of "Conviction Guidelines for Licensing and Disciplinary Action" will come back to the Board for final action after the wording has been reviewed by counsel.

c. Investigations Committee Action Items

MOTION: To ratify the minutes of the September 5, 2001, meeting of the Investigations Committee. (Dunwoody; second by Werts) Unanimous.

Steve Leach reported that that work is continuing on a consent agreement with Robert Cassavaugh and that there will be a Committee meeting following today's Board meeting.

d. Operations Team Action Items

Jay distributed copies of the "Insider's Guide to Maine EMS" that was developed by Joanne LeBrun with input from MEMS as well as EMS service chiefs and providers. Copies will also be available from the TCEMS web site.

Discussion is continuing about the cost of conducting examinations. As a result of fee increases from the National Registry of EMTs, exam fees will increase modestly in January 2002; however, significant increases will be needed in the future to cover the real costs.

The Operations Team has started using a tracking form developed by Rick Petrie to follow the activity of projects underway.

There was discussion about establishing cut off dates for current providers to complete the First Responder Update and the EMT-Intermediate Update. This would require a Rules change and will be conveyed to the Rules Revision Committee for their consideration.

e. Service Sponsorship

Debbie Dane reviewed the summary recommendation of the work group that was distributed in the Board mailing.

MOTION: To support the Legislative bill for removing sponsorship as a condition of licensure; to support the Work Group's recommendation regarding Rules changes addressing this issue, and to implement a fee for licensure as determined by the Board. (Dunwoody; second by Little). Carried with one opposed (Doughty).

f. Rules Revision

Work is continuing. On October 17, 2001, from 10:00 – 12:00 there will be a work session on the air ambulance section. That afternoon, work will continue on Sections 5 and up.

g. Board Terms

Jay reminded members that there are several terms that expire in the coming months; For Profit Ambulance Services (Bouchard), Fire Services (Werts), Hospitals (Stevens), and Emergency Nurses (Dane). Those currently in these positions and others who are interested should send a cover letter with their resume' to Governor King's office.

h. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Committee

Dwight reported that the EMSC Committee held its first meeting last month to review the EMSC activities that have taken place over years (e.g. Youth Suicide Prevention, Playground Safety, EMSC training update for prehospital providers). This Committee will meet monthly for the next couple of months in preparation for the application for the third year of our current three year project with EMSC. Possible future programs include continuing the youth suicide prevention program and establish regional EMSC resources to better coordinate the various activities currently being conducted by different groups/agencies.

i. Other

None at this time.

5. Staff Reports

a. Office

Jay reported on the activities of MEMS and the Regional Offices following the terrorist attacks on September 11. In the days immediately following the attack, MEMS was stationed at the Emergency Operations Center and became the central contact point for EMS, The Board of Nursing, Maine Medical Association, and the Maine Hospital Association. In just 3 days, nearly 1,000 people called or sent e-mails offering their services, if needed. One of the more significant challenges was keeping these callers focused on the needs of their respective communities and not having them respond to NYC (which actually had too many unsolicited volunteers, thus creating a secondary problem in itself).

When a call was received about a potential threat to emergency vehicles, the EOC was again activated and MEMS working through the 6 Regional Offices was able to contact every EMS service within the course of a few hours.

There are many ongoing discussions about the needs of the state with regard to Domestic Preparedness, and EMS is taking an active and visible role in these discussions.

Dawn reported on her Investigator Training program that took place in San Antonio, TX the week of September 10. Although this program was held as scheduled, a companion conference which both Dawn and Drexell were scheduled to attend was cancelled due to the attacks.

Similarly, the National Council of State EMS Training Coordinators annual meeting was postponed. Dwight will be planning to attend this meeting when rescheduled.

b. MDPB

Dr. Kendall reported that the MDPB is working on a revision to the Spinal Assessment program. The revision is being done to update the existing program and will include a quality assessment component. It was agreed at the September meeting that it would be prudent to include these changes in the upcoming protocol revision, which will mean that the protocol books may not be available until early next year.

There will be no October MDPB meeting due to conflicts with the ACEP and NASEMSD meetings.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 28 at 9:30. This is one week later than the normal meeting date (3rd Wednesday) which falls the day before the Thanksgiving Holiday.

6. Other

A reminder that the annual “EMS Town Meeting” will once again be held in conjunction with the Mid Coast EMS Samoset Conference. This will be on Friday, November 9 at 7:00 PM at the Samoset Resort in Rockport. All are invited to attend.

Adjourned at 11:50 – the next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2001.